

19. ON A NEW HOST RECORD OF *TARAGAMA SIVA* (LEF.) (LEPIDOPTERA: LASIOCAMPIDAE) FROM WEST BENGAL

The present note records *Taragama siva* (Lef.) for the first time from the tamarind tree. On 21 August, 1968, I found green leaves of a small tamarind tree in Eden Gardens, Calcutta being eaten by caterpillars. Tracing the caterpillars was difficult as their body colour was almost similar to the colour of the branches. Some caterpillars were brought to the laboratory and reared in a glass jar containing dry sandy soil. They pupated on the surface of the cloth used for covering the mouth of the jar. The moths that emerged were identified as *Taragama siva* (Lef.)

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P. PARUI

20. SUBTERRANEAN HABITATS OF SANDFLIES (DIPTERA: PSYCHODIDAE) IN AURANGABAD AND BHIR DISTRICTS, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

Studies on Indian sandflies have so far remained confined mainly to domestic and peridomestic habitats. The significance of certain other types of habitats, particularly the subterranean ones is well known in the epidemiology of 'termite-hill Kala-azar' in Kenya (Wijers & Minter 1962; Minter 1963) and cutaneous Leishmaniasis in Uzbekistan, U.S.S.R. (Dergacheva & Dolmatova 1962; Dolmatova & Dergacheva 1961). Subterranean habitats of sandflies have also been reported from Sudan (Quate 1964; Qutubuddin 1961), Brazil (Martin *et al.* 1964), Ghana and Pakistan (Lewis 1967). In the present communication, sandflies have been recorded for the first time from subterranean habitats in India.

Following the isolation of a virus of sandfly fever group from the sera of two febrile cases in Aurangabad, Maharashtra State, India (Bhatt *et al.*, in preparation), and the isolation of Chandipura virus from wild caught sandflies from the same area (Dhanda *et al.*, 1970),